IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0008] beginning at page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0008]

A method for assaying adiponectin contained in a sample with neither SDS denaturing treatment nor thermal denaturing treatment has been disclosed (Patent Document [[2]] 1, It is ~~disicribed~~ described in the document that native adiponectin was measured). However, no reference has been made to selectively assay, and this method cannot be employed for selectively assay.

[Patent Document 1] WO 03/016906

[Patent Document 2] JP-A-2002-363094

[Patent Document 3] JP-A-2000-304748

[Non-Patent Document 1] Yamauchi T., et al., Nat Med., 7, 941-946, 2001

[Non-Patent Document 2] Nakano Y., et al., J. Biochem., 120, 803-812, 1996

[Non-Patent Document 3] Tsao T-S., et al., J. Biol. Chem., 277, 29359-29362, 2002

[Non-Patent Document 4] Utpal B., et al., J. Biol. Chem., 278, 9073-9085, 2003

[Non-Patent Document 5] Yamamoto Y., et al., Clin. Sci., 103, 137-142, 2002

Please replace paragraph [0079] beginning at page 48 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0079]

Example 15 Relationship with metabolic syndrome

The 298 Patients employed in Example 14 were divided into four groups on the basis of the total adiponectin content (T.Ad) and the ratio of HMW-Ad content to T.Ad content; i.e., HMW-Ad/T.Ad ´ 100% (HMW-R), by use of the following criteria. Firstly, the mean

values of T.Ad and HMW-R were calculated to be 9.8 mg/mL and 32%, respectively. Patients exhibiting T.Ad and HMW-R values which are lower than the respective mean values were classified into Group A; patients exhibiting T.Ad values which are lower than the mean value and exhibiting HMW-R values which are equal to or higher than the mean value were classified into Group B; patients exhibiting T.Ad values which are equal to or higher than the mean value and exhibiting HMW-R values which are lower than the mean value were classified into Group C; and patients exhibiting T.Ad and ~~HMW-Ad~~ HMW-R values which are equal to or higher than the respective mean values were classified into Group D. In addition, the patients within each group were divided into two groups in view of the metabolic syndrome diagnosis criteria (JAMA, 285:2486, 2001) of the US Adult Treatment Panel III (ATPIII); i.e., a first group formed of patients exhibiting, within any two or more of the five risk factor items, risk factor levels that are higher than the respective criteria; and a second group formed of patients exhibiting, within less than two risk factor items, risk factor levels that are higher than the respective criteria. Usually, according to the diagnosis criteria of ATPIII, a patient having, in any three or more items, risk factor levels that are higher than the respective criteria is defined to suffer metabolic syndrome. However, in the present Example, a severer criterion was employed. The results are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0080] beginning at page 49 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0080]

A Kruskal-Wallis test revealed that the number of metabolic syndrome diagnosis criterion items has a statistically significant correlation with the T.Ad and HMW-R values (p value = 0.001). In Groups A and C, which consist of patients exhibiting HMW-R values which are ~~equal to or~~ less than the mean value, the proportion of patients classified to the

group exhibiting two or more metabolic syndrome diagnosis criterion items was larger. The results indicate that, as compared with the T.Ad value, the HMW-R value can serve as a good indicator for metabolic syndrome. That is, the present inventors have found for the first time that measurement of the HMW-R value and use of the HMW-R value as an index for metabolic syndrome are effective in prevention or prognosis of metabolic syndrome.